

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please delete the title of the invention and replace it with the following:

NATURE-IDENTICAL ERYTHROPOIETIN

Please insert a paragraph beginning at page 1, after the title of the invention:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 National Phase conversion of PCT/IB2004/004247 filed December 22, 2004, which claims priority of European Application No. 03029541.4 filed December 22, 2003.

On page 1, after the Cross Reference To Related Applications, delete “Description” and insert:

Technical Field

On page 1, after line 9, before the paragraph beginning with, “Naturally occurring Erythropoietin is a glycoprotein which is...”, please insert:

Background of the Invention

On page 2, please amend the second paragraph (lines 3-10) as follows:

Until recently, the availability of EPO has been very limited. The protein is present, for example, in human urine. However, excreted levels are basically too low to make this a practical source of EPO for therapeutic use. Patients suffering from ~~a-plastic~~ aplastic anaemia exhibit elevated levels of urinary EPO relative to healthy individuals, but limited availability of such patients also ~~make~~ makes such source impractical. The purification of human urinary EPO (hEPO) was described by Miake et al. (J. Biol. Chem. (1977) 252:5558).

On page 7, after line 13, before the paragraph beginning with, “The technical problem is solved by the provision of a process for the...”, please insert:

Summary of the Invention

On page 8, after line 21, before the paragraph beginning with, “The Present invention most advantageously provides EPO as a compound...”, please insert:

Detailed Description of Certain Preferred Embodiments

On page 25, after line 18, before the paragraph beginning with, “Although only preferred embodiments of the invention are specifically...”, please insert:

Examples

On page 32, please delete “Claims” and insert:

What is claimed is:

On page 45, please insert the following title at the top of the page:

NATURE-IDENTICAL ERYTHROPOIETIN